

**Shoals Now Fiber Ready**

MUSCLE SHOALS—Three Shoals industrial parks proudly announced they are “fiber ready” last week opening the door to greater interest in local development. Community leaders are hopeful that the high-speed internet investment will lead to job growth and industrial expansion in the Shoals.

The Florence-Lauderdale Industrial Park, Shoals Research Airpark, and Rogersville Business Park are now outfitted with fiber internet from AT&T.

Not having fiber was an extra hurdle for potential employers who were considering to Shoals market.

Shoals Chamber of Commerce President Steve Holt said bandwidth capability is a top level priority for potential employers. This upgrade helps us stay competitive with other areas in attracting jobs.

“I talked to a company two months ago,” said Holt. “We told them what we were planning on doing on bandwidth expansion. Their comment back was that could be a game changer for us. It may change whether we’re looking at the Shoals or not.”

**Conner New FACS Grad**

MUSCLE SHOALS—Dr. J. Ryan Conner was among 1,679 Initiates from around the world who became Fellows of the American College of Surgeons (FACS) during the Convocation ceremony at the College’s 2015 annual Clinical Congress in Chicago last month. This year’s class of Initiates was among one of the largest ever admitted into the College.

Dr. Conner received a medical doctorate in 2008 from Mercer University and is currently practicing at Surgical Associates of the Shoals located in Muscle Shoals. Conner attained board certification in 2013 from the American Board of Surgery. He has a strong professional interest in Minimally Invasive Surgery, Colon and Rectal Surgery, and Surgical Endoscopy and holds membership in other professional societies, including the Society for American Gastrointestinal Endoscopic Surgeons.

By meeting the College’s stringent membership requirements, Fellows of the College have earned the distinguished right to use the designation of “FACS” (Fellow,

See SHORTS... on Page 6

**Merry Christmas**

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**Four NW-SCC Awards**

NW-SCC employees receive their awards at the 2015 ACCS Chancellor's Awards ceremony in Birmingham. Pictured (L to R): Callie Bankston, Tara Branscome, Dr. Humphrey Lee, NW-SCC President, Adriana Wuotto, Kym Robinson.

Courtesy Photo NW-SCC



MUSCLE SHOALS-- Four Northwest-Shoals Community College (NW-SCC) employees were recognized at the 2015 Alabama Community College System (ACCS) Chancellor's Awards ceremony in Birmingham.

Chancellor's Awards are given annually to each community college in four categories:

Administrator of the Year, Academic Faculty Member of the Year, Technical Faculty Member of the Year and Support Staff Member of the Year.

The 2015 award winners for Northwest Shoals are:

See AWARDS...on Page 6

**RC&D Grant**

LEIGHTON—The Northwest Alabama Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) Council recently awarded \$11,942.50 to Leighton Elementary School in Colbert County for the purchase of 59 ASUS Chromeboxes. The new compact computers can connect to multiple displays at once.

See GRANT...on Page 6

**Celebrate Alabama's Best Main Street**

FLORENCE—Court Street in Downtown Florence was recently proclaimed the Best Main Street in Alabama. “It is without a doubt the ultimate shopping destination,” according to OnlyInYourState.com. A couple of popular stores include JAR & Company and Billy Reid. Unique dining establishments include Rosie’s Cantina,

FloBama, the Pie Factory, City Hardware, and Ricatoni’s.

First Fridays is a regular must-do in downtown on the first Friday evening of each month from March - December. Businesses stay open late and downtown Florence comes alive with shopping, art, and entertainment for the entire family.



**Local School Systems in the Top Ten**

SHOALS-Florence City Schools and Muscle Shoals City schools excelled again this year in the Niche ranking for state public school districts. Florence ranked eighth while Muscle Shoals is ranked ninth as we

prepare to enter 2016. Last year they were eleventh and tenth respectively.

The Niche corporation is a national ranking company that researches various educational issues. Rankings were based on

complete 2014 data for each of Alabama’s 136 school districts.

The process of ranking the state’s school systems considers the following

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**Inside this Issue**

- Parade Winners
- Hocus Focus
- Florence on Parade



- Coloring Winners
- Ask the Attorney
- Dave Ramsey



- Adopt-A Friend
- Mike Randall
- Soaps
- 2 Game Day Score Cards



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categories: Academics, health and safety, student culture/diversity, parent-student surveys on overall school experience, teacher grades, resources and facilities, extracurricular activities, and sports/fitness.

Mountain Brook City, Homewood City, and Madison City Schools were ranked 1, 2 and 3 respectively this year.

"It's an honor to be in the top ten school districts in our state. It speaks volumes. We're in some very good company," said Muscle Shoals Superintendent, Brian Lindsey.

The budgets for Florence City Schools is currently at \$50.9 million. The budget for Muscle Shoals City Schools is \$28.8 million.

**Overall Niche grades for area public high schools**

- Brooks B
- Central B+
- Cherokee B+
- Colbert Co. B-
- Colbert Hgts B-
- Deshler C+
- Florence A
- Hatton B
- Hubbard B
- Lauderdale Co. B
- Muscle Shoals A
- Rogers B+
- Sheffield C+
- Waterloo B
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- Wilson B-

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 But the death of Christ on the cross.  
 If you worship the babe in the manger  
 But ignore the blood of God's Son  
 To you Christ is only a stranger  
 Till you trust the work He has done.  
 Will you look past the babe in the manger  
 Will you look to Calvary  
 Oh my friend can you not see the danger  
 Of a lost eternity  
 The Babe in the manger was God's only Son  
 Who came to the world to die  
 The Babe in the manger could never have done  
 The work of His God on High.  
 The Babe left the manger and went to the cross  
 To Pay the wages of sin  
**Your way of forgiveness is not by the Babe,  
 But the Christ Who died for your sin.**

You will never know peace until you trust the Prince of peace and the Author of salvation, The Lord Jesus Christ. Your own works and justification and righteousness and church will not get you off the ground. See Luke 10:29 & Luke 18:9. What are you trusting for eternity? Oh yes, you are trusting something, what is it? Your trust must pass the fire test of 1Corinthians 3:10-15. Does yours? Look into your heart; do you have any real assurance or peace? Quit kidding yourself and stop deceiving others. There is only one way, and it is not your works or your church, it's Jesus Christ. Trust Him, ask Him for salvation and peace, if He doesn't deliver, call me.

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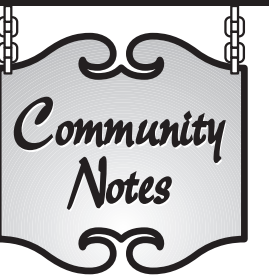
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<p><b>John Morrell Hot Dogs</b> 12 oz. pkg. <b>89¢</b></p>		<p><b>PIGGLY WIGGLY 2-PLY Choose-A-Size Paper Towels</b></p> <p><b>4 ROLLS FOR \$3</b></p>	<p><b>PIGGLY WIGGLY FROZEN Crinkle Cut French Fries</b></p> <p><b>3.99</b> 5 LB. BAG</p>
<p><b>John Morrell Sliced Bologna</b> 12 oz. pkg. <b>1.19</b></p>		<p><b>PIGGLY WIGGLY Spring Water</b></p> <p><b>3.59</b> 24 PACK 1/2 LITER BTL.</p>	<p><b>PIGGLY WIGGLY Ice Cream Sandwiches</b></p> <p><b>2/\$6</b> 12 PACK</p>
<p><b>Sunnyland Sliced Bacon</b> 12 oz. pkg. <b>2.59</b></p>		<p><b>PIGGLY WIGGLY Peanut Butter</b> 18 OZ. JAR <b>2/\$3</b></p>	
<p><b>Buddig Deli Sliced Ham or Turkey</b> 16 oz. pkg <b>3.99</b></p>		<p><b>PIGGLY WIGGLY Tastes Like Butter</b> 16 OZ. CUP <b>\$1</b></p>	
<p><b>Market Made Country Sausage</b> lb. <b>1.19</b></p>		<p><b>PIGGLY WIGGLY Black Eyed Peas</b> 15 OZ. CAN <b>2/\$1</b></p>	

<p><b>PEPSI &amp; ALL Pepsi Products</b></p> <p>6 PACK - 1/2 LITER BTL.</p> <p><b>2/\$4</b></p>	<p><b>PIGGLY WIGGLY Bread or Buns</b></p> <p>PKG. OR LOAF</p> <p><b>79¢</b></p>	<p><b>PIGGLY WIGGLY Peanut Butter</b></p> <p>18 OZ. JAR</p> <p><b>2/\$3</b></p>	<p><b>PIGGLY WIGGLY Black Eyed Peas</b></p> <p>15 OZ. CAN</p> <p><b>2/\$1</b></p>
<p><b>PIGGLY WIGGLY Large Eggs</b></p> <p>DOZEN CTN.</p> <p><b>2/\$4</b></p>	<p><b>TOTINO'S Frozen Pizza</b></p> <p>10-10.9 OZ. BOX</p> <p><b>2/\$3</b></p>	<p><b>PIGGLY WIGGLY Tastes Like Butter</b></p> <p>16 OZ. CUP</p> <p><b>\$1</b></p>	<p><b>PIGGLY WIGGLY Frozen Crinkle Cut French Fries</b></p> <p>2 LB. BAG</p> <p><b>2/\$4</b></p>
<p><b>LITTLE DEBBIE Honey Buns, Nutty Bars or Oatmeal Pies</b></p> <p>BOX</p> <p><b>\$1</b></p>	<p><b>HUNT'S Spaghetti Sauce</b></p> <p>24 OZ. CAN</p> <p><b>\$1</b></p>	<p><b>PIGGLY WIGGLY Flour or Corn Meal Mix</b></p> <p>5 LB. BAG</p> <p><b>1.79</b></p>	<p><b>PIGGLY WIGGLY Crinkle Cut French Fries</b></p> <p>16 OZ. BOX</p> <p><b>1.39</b></p>
<p><b>TINA'S Frozen Burritos</b></p> <p>4 OZ. PKG.</p> <p><b>2/\$1</b></p>	<p><b>PIGGLY WIGGLY Cheese Singles</b></p> <p>12 OZ. PKG.</p> <p><b>2/\$4</b></p>	<p><b>PIGGLY WIGGLY Salad Dressing</b></p> <p>16 OZ. BTL.</p> <p><b>2/\$4</b></p>	<p><b>PIGGLY WIGGLY Ketchup</b></p> <p>24 OZ. SQUEEZE BTL.</p> <p><b>\$1</b></p>

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The last few copies of **Memories of Coffee High School 1917-2004** are available at PSI on Court Street in downtown Florence put together by Rose Sullivan, a former yearbook sponsor at Coffee. It is compiled from all 87 Coffee Pot annuals. Parts of all decades are included with sections such as Sports, Clubs, Faculty, Who's Who, and more... Too much to mention. The hard back book has 110 pages of memories, \$45. If you can't get to Florence, mail a check payable to Rose Sullivan, 313 Government Blvd., Muscle Shoals, AL 35661. She will get one in the mail immediately.

**VFW Sheffield Post 4919. Book your Holiday Party Now.** Spacious room, bar if needed. For more information, call Deb White at 256-349-8409.

**VFW Sheffield Post 4919 will have a dance** every Friday and Saturday Night. The doors open at 6pm, the band starts at 7pm.

**Brookdale Shoals in Muscle Shoals** is hosting its Giving Back to the Shoals program this holiday season. Shoals Animal Advocates and the Colbert County Animal Shelter are the beneficiaries and are accepting food items, Medical supplies, cleaning supplies, and misc items. These organizations work tirelessly to care for, feed and house the many animals brought to them and then, find suitable homes for them - or foster homes until a "forever" home is established.

Their list of needed items is extensive but these items are the most important. Bleach, Cat litter, Kitten dry food, Pet carrier - any kind, Puppy pads, \*\*Dawn blue dish detergent, \*\*Paper towels, \*\*Easy correct tape. Brookdale is located on Wilson Dam Rd.

The **Florence-Lauderdale Library** will be closed for the Holidays, December 24-27 & January 1.

The library and the book drop will be closed these days for Christmas and New Year's Day. No items will be due on these days.

**Free Christmas Eve Meal - Thursday, December 24, 10:30am-12noon** at First United Methodist Church, McDowell Hall, 415 N. Seminary St., Florence. Come by to pick up your dinner for this very special holiday meal. All are welcome.

**The Nutrition Program at The Club (Florence Senior Center) Will Be Closed** from December 24-January 4. Our staff and friends wish you a Merry Christmas and hope you will spend 2016 with us at The Club during one of our many activities. Chair exercise classes, art classes, nutrition program, guest speakers, board and card games, square dance lessons, dance opportunities, shuffleboard, horseshoes, cozy concerts and more. Cozy Concert with John Tibbs, February 18. For more information, about activities please call 256-760-6420. The Club is an alcohol and smoke free facility.

**Red Cross Blood Donations This Holiday Season:**

December 29, 1-6pm, Rogersville Fire Department, 36 Wheeler St., Rogersville  
January 10, 12-5pm, Cornerstone Church of Christ, Macedonia Church of Christ, 12101 Highway 20

Download the American Red Cross Blood Donor App, visit redcrossblood.org or call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) to make an appointment or for more information. All blood types are needed to ensure a reliable supply for patients. A blood donor card or driver's license or two other forms of identification are required at check-in. Individuals who are 17 years of age (16 with parental consent in some states), weigh at least 110 pounds and are in generally good health may be eligible to donate blood. High school students and other donors 18 years of age and younger also have to meet certain height and weight requirements.

## ASK THE ATTORNEY



**Thomas McCutcheon**

*Ask the Attorney is sponsored by local attorneys, McCutcheon & Hamner, PC, as a service to the residents of NW Alabama.*

### SETTLEMENTS AND HOW THEY WORK

When people are involved in an automobile accident, they often want the other party's insurance company to pay their medical bills as they go along. That's simply not the way it works.

Another often asked question is will my future medical bills that result from an automobile accident be covered? The answer to that question is that if a doctor testifies that you will need future medical treatment and the amount that it will cost, a jury can award an amount for future medicals. Nonetheless, the other parties' auto insurance company will not pay your medical

bills until a settlement has been reached or a jury decides the issue.

When people are concerned about future medical costs they are often concerned about a possible future surgery or other treatment. The treatment has to be necessary and reasonably certain to occur and the costs must be addressed by a physician. Without that testimony a jury cannot consider whether or not to award future medicals. Remember that automobile cases result in a settlement that is a one-time deal. You only get one chance with a jury.

On-the-job injuries are quite different. By statute the employer is responsible for medical bills and 2/3 of your average weekly wage while you recover. The employer is responsible for future medical bills that directly relate to the on-the-job injury. On-the-job injuries are capped by a schedule of injuries that addresses the loss of fingers, hands, legs and toes by awarding a certain number of weeks of pay for the loss of certain body parts. And that is all you get. In an automobile accident case and lost an arm, a jury could award any amount they saw fit to compensate you or your family for your loss of enjoyment of life and the loss of your earning capacity but not if it's an on-the-job injury.

In certain on-the-job injury cases both parties want to close out medical and forego future medical treatment and in some of these cases, particularly if the injured party has applied for social security disability, Medicare has to be involved so that they are not on the hook for future medical treatment that the employer would have had to pay. In these cases we use what's called a Medicare Set Aside where Medicare estimates the amount of future medical treatment needed for the injuries sustained on a case-by-case basis.

*Buckle up and drive safely.*

Please send the questions to:

"Ask the Attorney,"

P. O. Box 38, Florence, Alabama 35631

or visit our website at: [www.mhatty.com](http://www.mhatty.com)

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**We are starting our end of year blowout a week earlier this year. Our suppliers have given us unbelievable pricing if we would take delivery now instead of in January. We bought a lot of TV's and appliances because of the deals. Now, we have to sell them. The good news is you get a great deal if you're ready to buy right now. The bad news is these prices can't go on forever. We are already seeing price increases for January 1st. Everything we sell is reduced to what our after Christmas prices will be. You don't have to wait until after Christmas to get the best deals. We've got them right now!**

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Courier Journal

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Courier Journal

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CLASSIFIED ADS - 5 pm Friday unless otherwise specified

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**219 W. Tennessee St. Florence, AL 35630**  
or email to: [editor@courierjournal.net](mailto:editor@courierjournal.net)

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## Grant...

Continued from Page 1

Every teacher received at least two in their classroom for student use.

The Chromeboxes were recently installed by Louis Delbert, Mike Ricketts, and Nick Pearson, all technicians for Colbert County.

"Thank you so much for allowing Leighton students to access a broader world of learning," said Leighton Elementary School Librarian, Mary Underwood. "RC&D has given our students the opportunity to bridge the digital gap."

Roger Hayes, chairman of the Northwest Alabama RC&D Council, said, "The Council will continue to support projects that are helping our students learn and gain new opportunities." He also expressed his appreciation to Senator Larry Stutts, and Representatives Marcel Black and Johnny Mack Morrow.

## SHORTS...

### Conner News FACS Grad

Continued from Page 1

American College of Surgeons) after their names. For more information, visit: [www.facs.org](http://www.facs.org).

### Three Degreed at Freed

HENDERSON, TN—Three students from Lauderdale County received degrees from Freed-Hardeman University Dec. 11 at commencement exercises.

The university conferred the Master of Divinity upon Kyle Butt of Florence. Lauren Atchley Posey who is also from Florence was awarded the Bachelor of Science in biochemistry. She graduated magna cum laude. In addition, Jordan Ryan Jennings, from Killen, graduated magna cum laude with a Bachelor of Science in biology.

Freed-Hardeman University, with locations in Henderson, Memphis, and Dickson in Tennessee, provides an exceptional education from a distinctly Christian perspective.

## Awards...

Continued from Page 1

Administrator of the Year: Tara Branscome, Ready to Work Program Coordinator

Academic Faculty of the Year: Kym Robinson, Speech Instructor

Technical Faculty of the Year: Callie Bankston, Cosmetology Instructor

Support Staff Member of the Year: Adriana Wuotto, Secretary to Vice President of Instruction

The Chancellor's Awards began 29 years ago in the ACCS as a way to reward and encourage those who have exemplified outstanding performance, creativity, and dedicated service to their college.

## Celestial Thoughts

In the name of exercise, I have walked in my neighborhood for years. Due to new construction that has gone on at various times throughout the years, roofing nails have been accidentally dropped in the streets. When I see a nail in the road I stop to pick it up. I've probably picked up a hundred nails through the years. One day as I bent down to reach for a nail, I thought about Jesus and the nails He picked up for me. I carried that nail, and all of the nails after that, with a new perspective. Now I hold each one tight as I thank God for what He did for me. The secondary gain is that I feel really good about the tires I've saved by the good deed. Have you picked up a nail lately? It should definitely be on your bucket list.

"But God demonstrates His own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us." Romans 5:8

Dawn N.

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# Soap Opera Preview

**THE BOLD AND THE BEAUTIFUL** Zende made it clear to Sasha that he loved Nicole. Thomas contemplated where he would spend the holidays now that he'd made so many enemies. Brooke was blindsided by some upsetting news that would change her plans for Christmas. Feeling sentimental about family, Katie and Bill discussed incorporating Brooke into more of their social activities. Wyatt turned to Liam for some brotherly advice regarding a future with Ivy. While waiting for his guests to arrive, Eric reminisced about the many happy memories that had taken place at the mansion. Pam received a sign that Stephanie's spirit was around to watch over the family celebration. *Wait to See: Sparks reignite for a former couple.*

**DAYS OF OUR LIVES** On Christmas Eve, the Horton family gathered to hang their ornaments on the tree. Rafe uncovered some curious information about Dr. Malcolm. Caroline had another disturbing vision involving Victor. Adrienne shared some unsettling medical news with Lucas. Steve warned his son Joey that Ava was dangerous. Claire was upset when Belle suggested that she return to Maine. Kate threatened to pull Theresa's designs from the upcoming fashion show. Abigail confronted Chad when she found him having dinner with Belle. John warned Marlena that they might be in danger. Kate and Eduardo shared a romantic evening together. Steve gave Kayla a very special Christmas gift. *Wait to See: Hope zeroes in on the person responsible for Bo's kidnapping.*

**GENERAL HOSPITAL** Singer India Arie performed a romantic song at the gala. Sam opened up to Jason about her feelings for him. Later, Nikolas and Jason got into a physical altercation. Paul's inability to resist Ava got him into a heap of trouble. Michael put two and two together about Sabrina's baby. Robin shared an emotional reunion with her family, while Jerry got his just deserts. Sam was left shaken by Jason and Elizabeth's close encounter. Later, Sonny and Sam found themselves remembering their shared past. Laura came to an accurate conclusion about Lulu. Elizabeth had some explaining to do to her kids. Kristina deflected questions about her secret. *Wait to See: Patrick tells Sam where he stands with both her and Robin.*

**THE YOUNG AND THE RESTLESS** Noah returned to work at Newman Enterprises and was forced to give Luca and Marisa a tour of the office. Jack admitted to Phyllis and Kyle that he wasn't sure he could save Jabot after their recent financial loss. Later, Kyle confessed to Summer that he was feeling overwhelmed by the pressures at work. Sharon ran into Adam at Crimson Lights for the first time since his true identity was revealed. Victor told Adam that he would do whatever it took to rebuild Newman Enterprises, even if it meant not celebrating Christmas. Lily asked Devon if he could ever forgive Hilary for still having feelings for Neil. Traci surprised Ashley with an unexpected trip home for the holidays. *Wait to See: Kevin and Mariah celebrate a new chapter in their lives.*

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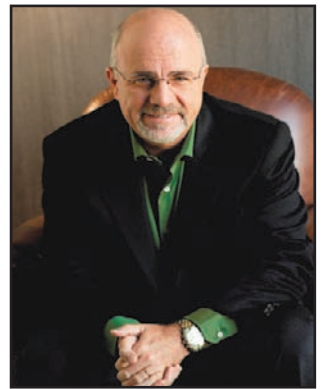
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## DAVE Says

by DAVE RAMSEY



### LAST MINUTE SHOPPING

Dear Dave,  
I woke up this morning and realized I haven't started Christmas shopping yet. I've been listening to you for a long time, and I don't want to fall in the trap this year of paying outrageous prices for things just because I have waited until the last minute. Can you give me some tips on how to save on Christmas gifts and not overspend?  
Ali

Dear Ali,  
My first piece of advice is for next year. Decide now how much you want to spend on Christmas gifts and then divide that number by 12. Set aside that amount each month starting in January, and then you won't be in a panic when Christmas rolls around next year. Planning ahead always reduces stress when it comes to financial matters. As for this year, my advice is to be aware of last-minute shopping traps. Many stores understand that people start getting desperate as Christmas draws nearer, and their prices reflect that. Also, stay away from the malls. Some folks may think I'm un-American for saying that, but I don't care. Our culture has become one of shoppers who run to the mall, pay 120 percent of retail for something, and think they got a bargain because there was a sign that said SALE hanging over the table. Also, don't be afraid to negotiate. It may not be comfortable at first, but you can find some great deals if you're willing to do two things: pay cash and walk away. Once you get in the habit of approaching purchases this way it will become second nature—and fun! Finally, there are great websites out there like eBay and [coolsavings.com](http://coolsavings.com). Thinking differently and changing your gift-buying behaviors may be a little

tough at first, but trust me, it's worth the effort. Merry Christmas, Ali!  
—Dave

### BUSINESS LICENSE FOR A SEASONAL JOB

Dear Dave,  
I'm starting a side business of putting up Christmas lights for people. Will I need to get a business license?  
Jason

Dear Jason,  
You might be getting a late start with a business of this type, but if you manage your time and work hard you can still brighten people's lives and make a little extra cash. Most towns don't require a formal business license for this kind of thing, but you might want to check with your local municipality to be sure. It's just quick seasonal work where you show up for a couple of hours and hang lights for someone, right? But if you started hiring people or doing something year round, you'd probably need a formal business license. Regardless, make sure you have a separate checking account so you can keep track of the income and expenses associated with your work. Merry Christmas, Jason!  
—Dave

Dave Ramsey is America's trusted voice on money and business, and CEO of Ramsey Solutions. He has authored five New York Times best-selling books. The Dave Ramsey Show is heard by more than 8.5 million listeners each week on more than 550 radio stations. Dave's latest project, EveryDollar, provides a free online budget tool. Follow Dave on Twitter at @DaveRamsey and on the web at [daveramsey.com](http://daveramsey.com).

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CLASS A CDL DRIVERS NEEDED  
For Southeast and Midwest Runs.  
Great Home Time With Competitive Pay.  
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- Digital X-Ray On Site
- Accepting All Insurance including Medicaid & Medicare
- Walk-ins Welcome

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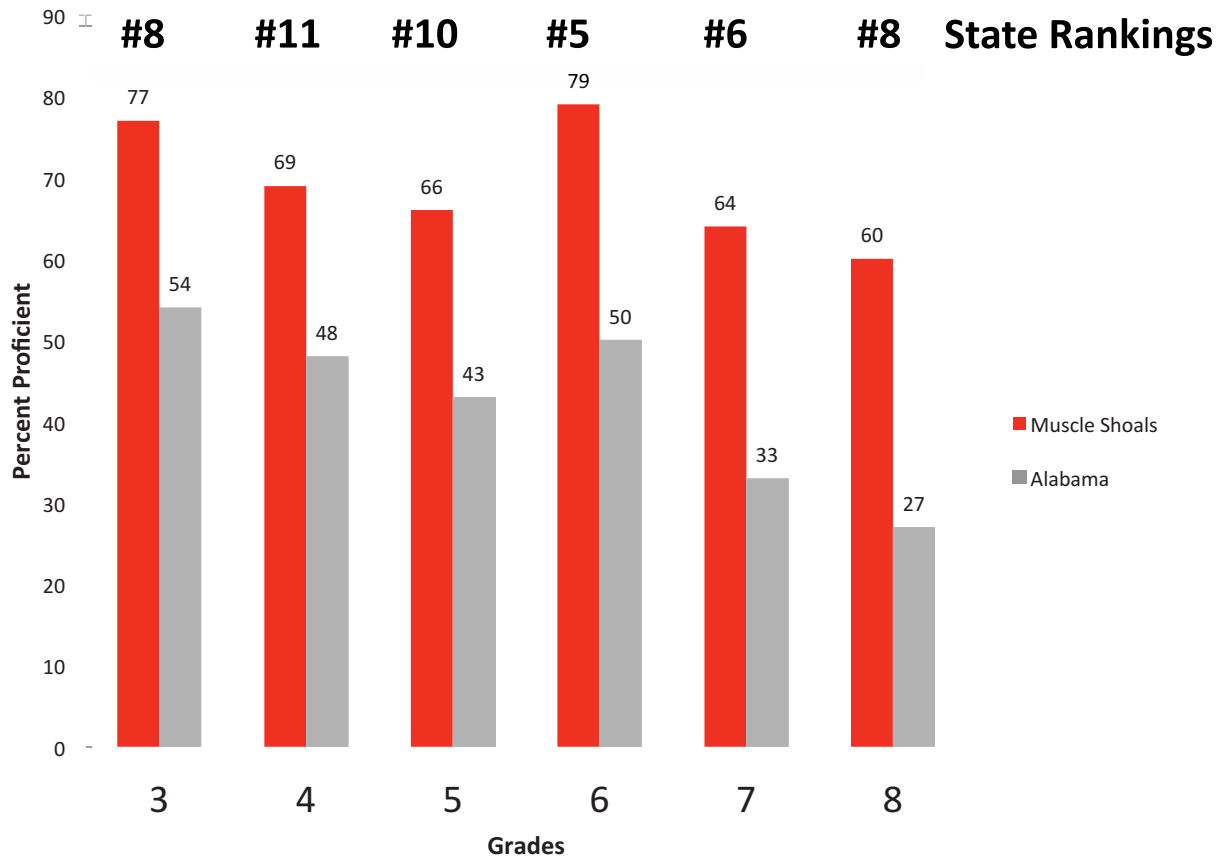
**Susan Gasque, CRNP** **256-767-1779**

503 West College Street • Florence, AL  
Monday-Thursday • 8am-5pm

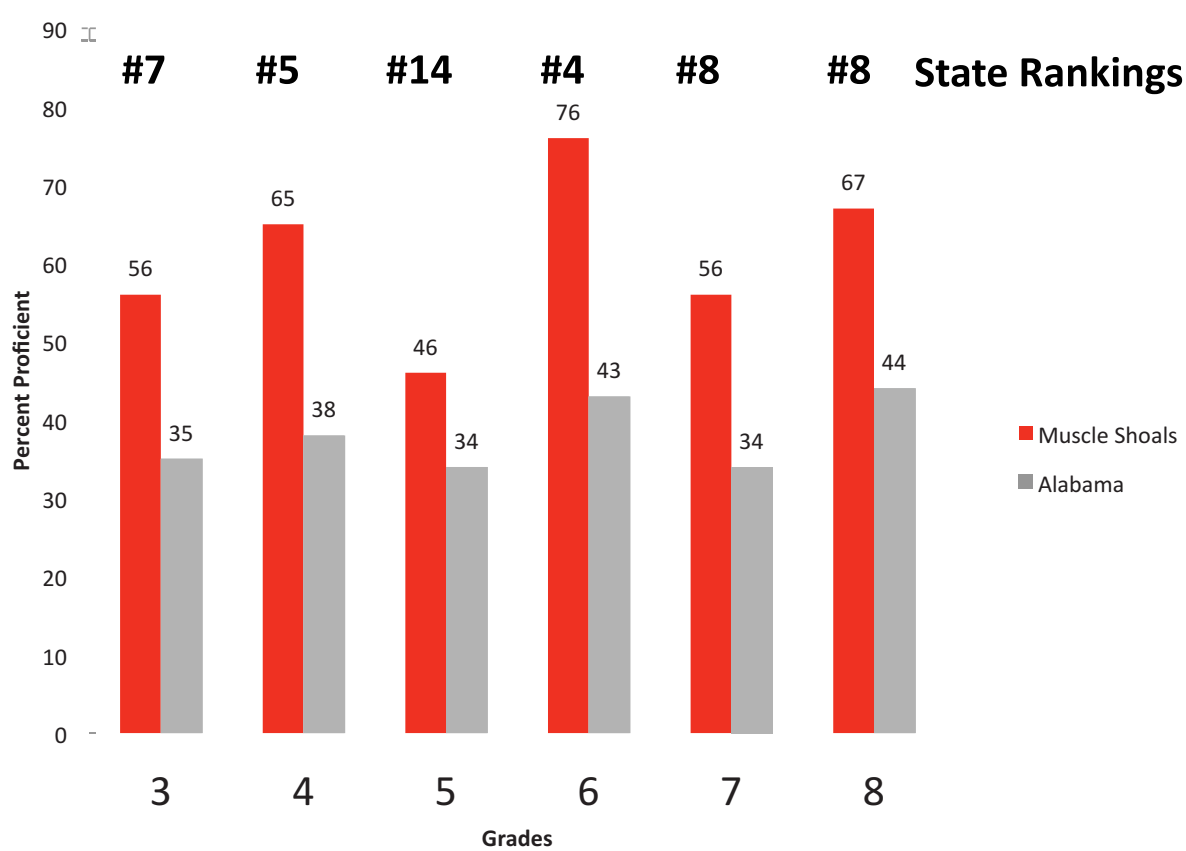


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Graduation Rate = 97%

ACT PLAN State Rankings = 10th Grade Reading = 6th  
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Best school district in the State = 9th  
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825 Certifications - 1,029 dual enrollment credit hours

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**ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE - THE TRADITION CONTINUES!**

**Cajun's SEAFOOD** "Bring Out The Cajun In You"

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!  
Thanks for ALL the Years!

**Bring In New Year's With Us!** **NO COVER!**

**HOLIDAY HOURS**  
Closed Christmas Eve & Day  
Re-Open Sat. Dec. 26

**OPEN NEW YEAR'S EVE & DAY**  
Day & Night Football Celebration!  
New Year's Eve - Doors open at 3pm  
Special Football Buffet - Drink Specials  
Live Music at Halftime and After Game!

**4301 N. Jackson Hwy., Sheffield**  
**256-381-1573 • Open Wed-Fri 3-11 • Sat 12-11**

Special Restaurant Advertising Rates apply to our Shoals Dining section. Contact your Courier Journal advertising executive today, or call 256-764-4268 and ask for Tom.

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Take the stress out of your holiday...  
Let me do the baking for you

**All Event Catering**  
Main Dishes, Appetizers, Bread, Pies, Cookies, Cakes, and Confections for Any Size Crowd

Call or email for information  
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From my home to yours...

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**Pick 5 for Only \$10**  
Choose any combination of the following regular sandwiches.  
Smoked Chicken • BBQ Cheeseburger • Hot Dog Smoked Turkey

Something for Everyone!

Available Daily 3pm-7pm  
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Muscle Shoals Location Only  
You love us for lunch... Now try us for dinner!

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Open Christmas Eve 10:30am-3pm  
Country Cooking At It's Best!

Daily Specials  
Meat & 3 veg. \$6<sup>50</sup>  
Menu also available

AUCE Catfish  
Thurs Night 5-8  
\$12<sup>99</sup>

Mon-Fri 10:30am-8pm • Sun 10:30am-3pm  
1325 E. Avalon Ave. • Muscle Shoals across from McBride Elementary School

**FIVE GUYS**  
BURGERS and FRIES

Choose as many of our free toppings as you want!

- Mayo
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- Grilled Mushrooms
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- Mustard
- Relish
- Onions
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- Bar-B-Q Sauce
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10:30am-10pm every day Order online: FiveGuys.com

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**Everything is Political**

**Every Town has Challenges**

**Everyone receives a Courier Journal**

**NOTHING STICKS WITH A VOTER LIKE PRINT.**

- No online 'pop-ups' or text alerts to distract readers.
- Welcomed into the home.
- Information is actively sought, read, and absorbed.
- Ads are seen at readers' convenience, not forced on viewers and listeners during breaks.
- Plenty of space for candidates to list accomplishments and qualifications.
- Ad changes and fresh info are never a problem.

**Courier Journal** Where your favorite candidates need to be.

- **Largest Circulation - 70,000 Mailed** with every issue
- **Extended Shelf Life - 61%** of our readers keep the Courier Journal for 3 days or longer\*
- **Direct-Mail Distribution - Reliable, predictable, consistent delivery**

\* CVC Audit Survey 2014

**Call Us Today**  
**For Special Position Reservations Before They Are All Gone!**  
**256-740-4701**

# BENTLEY



1950 Florence Blvd  
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Pay to the order of Valued Customer

**\$1,000**

One Thousand and 00/100

DOLLARS

MEMO Christmas Cash\*

SIGNATURE Bentley

123456789 0000 9876543

\*Special delivery of 2015 Impala Ltds LTs. Starting at \$16,990.00 +++ and \$1,000 cash back to the customer for Christmas.

+++ B8005, B8006, B8007, B8008, B8009, B8010, B8017, B8019, are all \$17,900 • B8018, B8020, B8021, B8022 are all \$16,900  
All of these have the \$1,000 Cash Back. See dealer for details

# Havoline<sup>®</sup> xpress lube<sup>®</sup>



*Happy Holidays from Our Family to Yours*

## HAVOLINE OIL CHANGE

# \$10 OFF

With Coupon

Regularly \$38.99 ■ Good through 1/9/16  
Most Vehicles  
(Havoline<sup>®</sup> Conventional Oil, 5 qts.)



**FULL SERVICE CENTER  
FREE Diagnostics**

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- Belts & Hoses
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Professional flat repair



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**Full Service Center  
Mechanic on Duty**

## Commentary

# A Thank You... and Helping Others

**W**armer than usual temperatures for late fall threw off my mental Christmas clock this year. Others have expressed the same predicament with being behind. We thank all of the loyal *Courier Journal* readers and advertisers for another good year. The two work hand-in-hand for us. Purchases by our avid readers drive the train that keeps our circulation at or approaching 70,000 every week. Our regular advertisers allow us to keep our cost-per-thousand display rates the most competitive in Alabama according to the Alabama Press Association. We appreciate the opportunity to help small businesses grow and be successful, and we cherish the relationships that we have developed along the way. We wish everyone an rewarding Christmas season and a happy, healthful New Year!

### Looking for a Way to Help?

As many of us wrap up the Christmas shopping process, it always good to remember those in our community who are less fortunate. It's so easy to become ensnared in our own routine. Many people are diligent in volunteering and giving to causes which are special to them. Others who are well-intentioned and very busy can easily let the special giving opportunities of the season slip away.

It is hard to imagine for a country so advanced, but close to one in five Alabamians lack access to regular daily meals. Those numbers are accurate for our region as well.

Children are at greater risk and at higher numbers. Numerous physical, emotional and

See **HELPING...** on Page 22

Comments do not necessarily represent those of the *Courier* staff, its advertisers, or its readers.

## Courier Journal

# THIS WEEK

in the

# Shoals

December 23, 2015

Happening  
**THIS WEEK**



Singing River Brewery float

## Florence on Parade

FLORENCE—The 2015 Florence Christmas Parade featured over 130 floats, bands, and performance groups that marched, danced, sang, and twirled their way down Court Street to the delight of the spectators. Even Santa was on hand to wave at the crowd and shared some sweet treats.

Florence Main Street



Faith Church float

was responsible for the coordination of this year's parade, and First Southern Bank was the sponsor. "There's not much more fun than a parade," said Teryl Shields, Executive Director of Florence Main Street. "There's no better way to get excited about

See **PARADE...** on Page 21

## Entries Open for Artistic Renderings

SHOALS - The *Artistic Renderings of Youth* art exhibit runs from March 2 - April 13 at Kennedy-Douglass Center for the Arts in Florence. The juried exhibit is open to students in grades 7-12 from Colbert, Franklin, and Lauderdale counties. The deadline for entry is February 19.

See **ARTISTIC...** on Page 22

## Memories of CHS Fading

FLORENCE—The last few copies of *Memories of Coffee High School 1917-2004* are available at PSI on Court Street in downtown Florence put together by Rose Sullivan, a former yearbook sponsor at Coffee. It is compiled from all 87 Coffee Pot annuals. Parts of all decades are included with sections such as Sports, Clubs, Faculty, Who's Who, and more...Too much to mention.

See **MEMORIES...** on Page 22

### THE NUTRITION PROGRAM AT THE CLUB

450 Country Club Drive in Florence will be closed from December 24 - January 4. Our staff and friends wish you a Merry Christmas and hope you will spend 2016 with us at the Club during one of our many activities.

### FREE CHRISTMAS EVE MEAL

Thursday, December 24, 10:30am-12noon at First United Methodist Church, McDowell Hall, 415 N. Seminary St., Florence. Come by to pick up your dinner for this very special holiday meal. All are welcome.

### HIGHLAND PARK CHURCH OF CHRIST

is providing a Community Grief Support group during the months of December and January, free of charge. Meetings are each Wednesday of December and January at 12noon. Meetings will last around 1-1½ hours. The final meeting will be on January 27, 2016. For more information, call the church office at 256-381-8311. Highland Park Church of Christ is located at the corner of Woodward Avenue and Geneva Avenue, Muscle Shoals. Group leaders are Cayron Mann, ALC & Becky Daugherty, ALC.

### THE FLORENCE-LAUDERDALE LIBRARY

will be closed for the Holidays, December 24-27 and January 1. The library and the book drop will be closed these days for Christmas and New Year's Day. No items will be due on these days.

For Tickets call the Ticket Office 256-765-5466 or email Ticket Mgr. Jenn Sharp at [jlsharp1@una.edu](mailto:jlsharp1@una.edu)

Season's Greetings

From  
UNA Athletics Department



## BASKETBALL

Returns  
January 2

Visit [RoarLions.com](http://RoarLions.com)  
for Schedule

GO LIONS!



#GetYourPurpleOn. Wear your UNA Purple on Fridays!

## YOUR Letters

Your *Courier Journal* welcomes tastefully presented letters to be published as space allows. Letters may refer to timely matters of local, state, or national interest or any topic of concern or interest. **Letters must include name, address and phone number for verification.** (Only name and town will be published.) Letters subject to editing. Please limit letters to 400 words. All letters become the property of the *Courier Journal* and may not necessarily reflect opinions of the *Courier Journal* staff, its advertisers or a majority of readers. Please submit typed or neatly written letters to: Editor-Courier Journal

by Mail or in Person  
219 W. Tennessee St., Florence, AL 35630  
• e-mail: [editor@courierjournal.net](mailto:editor@courierjournal.net)  
• FAX- 256-760-9618

*Editor's Note: Answers and clarifications will be made as needed to the following letter and will be italicized.*

### Why Not Franklin Co.?

To the Editor:

I sent you an email a few months ago urging you and your readers to find the *Keiser Report* on YouTube for the real financial news. In one of its segments the December 8 edition points

“Obama isn't the first to abuse executive orders, but he has perfected it.

out how Jefferson County, Alabama went bankrupt with the help of a major banking firm.

You have told me that you no longer send the *Courier Journal* to Franklin County addresses because of the lack of advertising return. Lately, I've counted at least three advertisers from there, including one of your largest advertisers, Foodland.

We appreciate those advertisers who realize the benefits of reaching potential customers in neighboring counties. We served Franklin County many years ago. The Russellville Foodland store was only added to the store listing in the *Courier Journal* ad recently as a convenience. That store's primary ad with some varied products appears in a Franklin County publication.

How about giving those of us who live in Colbert County and are stuck with a Franklin County mailing address along with all the other Russellville addressed residents a copy of the *Courier Journal* each week for at least a trial period to see if you might pick up more advertisers from there? A decision to do that would

probably have to come from your boss, the paper's owner, and not you.

*It would cost another \$5,000-\$6,000 in printing and postage alone per week to cover Franklin county..*

*The owner would concur.*

I do appreciate your conservative views each week and agree with almost all of them. You seem to be the token conservative from a very liberal-owned newspaper.

I did hear from one of your major advertisers. He sometimes wishes you weren't so conservative because it probably causes many liberals to immediately trash your paper upon receiving it so they never see his ads.

*Readers are welcome to respond to or critique any commentary. Signed letters taking issue receive premium placement (and do not include editor's notes unless they create direct questions for our readers).*

Roger Henry  
Russellville

See **LETTERS...** on Page 15



**AMERICAN GIRL DOLL CUSTOM**  
handmade clothes just in time for Christmas! Great selection at ARTISAN FAIR in Rogersville! 12-30

**2002 TOYOTA HIGHLANDER**  
Limited, sunroof, leather, 182K, \$7,988, Financing, Call Tony 931-213-1386 or 256-764-3351. 12-30

**ADAYS WORK MOBILE HOME**  
repair, flooring, leaks, koolseal, underpinning, decks & more. Free estimates. 256-856-6213, 256-389-3179 12-23

**15 BIG STRONG BLACK COWS, 7**  
Big Calves, 4 Cows Bred back, one baby calf, Seven (6-8) months heavy bred cows. \$32,500. 256-366-7355 12-30

## Choosing your first Medicare health plan is a big decision

Call your local Humana agent today.

**Anah Whitehead Fowler**

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(Lic. # AL 208313)

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**SHOALS EXTERIORS**  
**Custom-Built Garages, Carports and Shell Homes**

24x24 Garage with **FREE** Attic Storage for **\$10,000**  
Includes: 4 inch slab, (2) 9x7 garage doors, entry door, siding, shingles and **FREE** attic storage

#1 Choice For Garages, Carports and Shell Homes in The Shoals

**LOW PRICE GUARANTEE**

- Roofing • Gutters • Siding • Garages and Carports • Windows • Doors
- Porch Columns • Skylights • Shutters • Pressure Washing • And More

Call Owners Joe or Larissa  
**256-483-8365**

## Letters...

Continued from Page 14

### Discards Only, Offer No Cash

Editor:

Thank You to the local folks who have contacted United Veterans since my last letter! They will be back in the Florence area on Wednesday, December 30 for pick-ups. Their Toll Free number is 877-798-7143. Donations are 100% tax deductible and a receipt will be provided. They accept household discards only, no cash donations.

They particularly need all types and sizes clothing, housewares, furniture/bedding, shoes, baby items, TVs, tools, drapes, rugs, etc. Anything you no longer use would be appreciated.

United Veterans provides food, clothing, and shelter for those in their time of need. Christmas is the time for giving, and this doesn't cost a penny, just a little bit of your time. Thanks again for those who have donated!

Jane Brasfield  
Florence

### What If He Favors ISIS?

Dear Editor:

After following the news about Obama and the immigration crisis, I wonder if any of the readers out there are having thoughts similar to mine:

What if Obama really does want ISIS to overtake the United States? What if that is the reason he wants to flood our country with Muslim refugees? And what if he has been delaying significant retaliations to ISIS because he is giving them a head start to weaken us? And what IF just before he goes out of office he declares martial law and declares himself dictator?

In my mind, the puzzle pieces fit.

Should Obama make himself dictator, whose specific responsibility does it become to organize the faithful patriots against the Muslim-in-chief?

My purpose in writing this is to get people thinking before the unthinkable happens.

Kevin Patrick Dillon  
Florence

See LETTERS... on 27

**WHAT A GREAT GIFT!!**  
Transfer old projector film to DVD!!

**Data Video 256-710-0292**  
Old Home Movie Film to Pro-Grade DVD

- Video Tape Transferred to Pro-Grade DVD
- Transfer: VHS, VHS-C, 8 mm, Beta, Mini DV Before They Age and Ruin.
- Music CDs From Cassettes/Albums

Join Us At [courierjournal.net](http://courierjournal.net)

## Drive A Little ... Save A Lot!



For After Hours Shopping Go To [www.warehousefurnrussellvilleal.com](http://www.warehousefurnrussellvilleal.com)

We carry Ashley, Bassett, Best, Broyhill, Catnapper, Fairfield Chair, Flexsteel, Hooker, Klaussner, Lane, Pulaski, Vaughan-Bassett, Universal and many more.

### Warehouse Furniture

We could be arrested for selling our furniture too cheap!

69 Clark Drive - Russellville Industrial Park, Russellville

256-332-0026 • Hours: Mon., Tues., Thurs., Fri., 10am - 5pm; Sat., 10am - 3pm; Closed Wed. & Sun.

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**DESIGNERS**  
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**BUY OUR PINNACLE SERIES FILM & Get FREE Paint Protection!**  
ASK FOR DETAILS

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OUR FAMILY CARING FOR YOUR FAMILY

Please stop and meet our holiday elf CAP!  
Like us on Facebook and follow his adventures!

501 W College St. • Florence  
256-766-3298

**Mystery Photo of the week!**

**WIN A MEAL FOR 2 at Rosie's CANTINA**  
Downtown Florence  
[www.rosiesmexicancantina.com](http://www.rosiesmexicancantina.com)  
Enter at [www.courierjournal.net](http://www.courierjournal.net)

Last week's winner is Theo Mashburn of Lexington who correctly guessed "Peppertown Free Will Baptist Church, Lexington"

One entry per person. Winners will be announced each week in our paper and on our website. Winners can pick up their Gift Certificate at the Courier Journal office on Wednesdays after 12 Noon.

**Walk In Appointments Welcome**

**Northwest Alabama Medical Associates**

Marissa Ramsey, CRNP  
Tonia Long, CRNP

Welcoming new patients and families, we specialize in Family and Adolescent Medicine.

**Accepting Medicare & Medicaid**

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**256-349-5275**

Located at 2115 Cloyd Blvd Suite 9 at ECM East

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*Wishing Everyone  
a Merry Christmas  
and Happy New Year  
from Our Family  
to Your's*



**SEVEN FOOT PRE-LIT CHRISTMAS** Tree, including container, \$50. 256-757-2069 12-30

**MATCHING RECLINERS BROWN** paisley, like new, \$200 ea. Killen, 256-366-7805 01-13

**FIREPLACE** antique white distressed wood, 34Wx37Hx11D, with remote, \$225. 256-810-6821 12-30

**ELECTROLOG,** No credit check. Action Auto- Killen. 256-757-5777. 12-23

**2013 FORD ESCAPE SEL,** leather, all power, 63K, \$16,988. Financing, David 256-415-0331 or 256-764-3351 12-30

**2006 NISSAN FRONTIER NISMO** 123,600 miles, \$14,500. Call 256-247-7006 256-710-6942 12-23

**RIVER CITY YARD & TREE CARE** Top, Trimming, Removal, Stump removal, Bucket work. Licensed and Insured. Owner Jimmy Ivey 256-318-3446, or Scotty Skipworth 256-810-4440 01-13

**I CAN GET YOU APPROVED FOR** your next car! Call Shannon 256-412-1551 or 256-764-3351. 12-30

**2005 DODGE NEON SXT, 4 CYL.,** \$3,450, 119k, Lower prices! 256-247-6004 www.capautosales.com 12-23

**FOR SALE COMPLETE** collection of Alabama football cards with binder, 600 cards to a set, \$25. 256-446-9982 01-13

**ALL-GREEN TREE SERVICE,** "Credit cards accepted" Affordable prices and friendly service. Topping, trimming, removal, lots cleared, stump grinding, Licensed Insured, 256-767-3519, 256-710-8787 12-30

**2009 TOYOTA VENZA SUNROOF,** cloth, auto, 102k, \$11,988. Financing available. Brandon 256-710-4598 or 256-764-3351. 12-30

**FIREWOOD FOR SALE, \$35** for 4x4 rick; hickory \$50 for 4x4 rick. I also do stump removal. 256-710-8787 12-30

**2BR/1BA, 95% OWNER** Financing, No Banks, Colbert Heights, Tuscumbia 256-383-5996, 256-263-8716 12-23

**2012 FORD FUSION SE,** Leather, power, 88k, \$11,928. Financing. Hoke 256-740-1297 or 256-764-3351 12-30

**2006 YAMAHA 4X4 KODIAK 450,** excellent shape, kept in basement, \$4,000. 256-412-1416 12-23

**FA HOME REMODELING. TILE,** painting, roofing, sheetrock, carpenter, deck, fences, flooring. Contact Fernando 256-702-3460. 01-06

*Merry Christmas & Happy New Year*

**TONY HUGHES, P.C.**  
*Attorney at Law*

- Criminal Defense
- Traffic Tickets
- DUI
- Estate/Probate
- Divorce-Child Support

**226 West Alabama St. • Florence, AL**  
**256-349-5694**

No representation is made that the quality of legal services to be performed is greater than the quality of legal services performed by other lawyers.




**INCREASE THE POWER OF YOUR CLASSIFIED AD. REDLINE IT!**

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Now Accepting New Patients

**Meredith L. Pickett, D.O.**

As a part of Avalon Medical Center, Dr. Pickett provides quality medical care with convenient in-house lab, Xray, and nuclear testing.



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**MERRY CHRISTMAS & HAPPY NEW YEAR!**

**Closed Dec. 24 & 25**

**Factory Close Outs & Work Wear**

Popular Athletic Colors and Neon Colors to Choose From

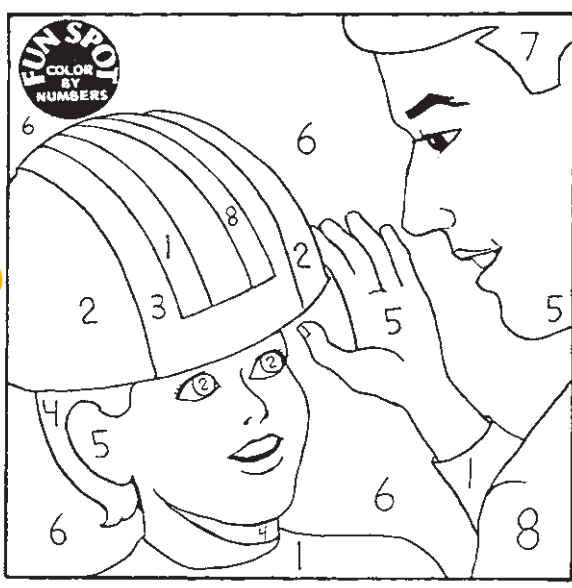
Infant and Toddler Fleece	\$2.75
1/4 Zip, Full Zip & Men's Hoods	\$7.75
Adult Crew Fleece	\$5.00
Adult Fleece Pants	\$5.00
Adult 100% Cotton S/S	\$2.75
Adult 100% Cotton L/S	\$3.50
Kids 100% Cotton S/S	\$2.00
Kids 100% Cotton L/S	\$2.00
Kid's Hoodies	\$6.75
L/S Pocket Tees	\$6.50
S/S Pocket Tees	\$5.00
Spirit Jerseys	\$20.00

**Extended Sizes \$1 extra per item**



**4031-F Parkway Drive • 931-242-6414**  
**Florence Industrial Park**  
Open Tuesday - Friday 9 - 5 • Saturday 9 - 2


**Junior Whirl**  
by Hal Kaufman




**HEADS UP!** Play it safe — wear that helmet skateboarding, biking, etc. Colors: 1—Red. 2—Lt. blue. 3—Yellow. 4—Lt. brown. 5—Flesh tones. 6—Lt. green. 7—Dk. brown. 8—Dk. blue.

**NAME GAME!** You are asked to form a six-letter word by adding a three-letter word to each of the names listed at right. Add con to Bea, for instance, to form Beacon. Add dew to Mil, for Mildew, etc. Now, see if you can take it from there. More than one answer may be possible in some instances. Time: 2 minutes.

1 BEA	6 BUD
2 MIL	7 TOM
3 SAM	8 FLO
4 CAL	9 PAM
5 WES	10 LES



**ADDRESSED TO THE NINES!**  
It's very mystifying, but no matter what number is selected between 20 and 1000, the answer is always 9 or 18 if you do the following:  
First: Add the digits of the number selected and subtract the result from the number itself. Then, add the digits again. For example: 721 is a number picked at random. Add digits, and the total is 10. Subtract 10 from 721. Answer is 711. Again add digits and, as predicted, the result is 9. Now, you pick a number. Remember, result will always be 9 or 18. Try several numbers.



**COUNT DOLLS!** Our artist says there are two dozen dolls of various sizes in the drawing above. Can you find them?

**SPELLBINDER**

SCORE 10 points for using all the letters in the word below to form two complete words:  
HYPNOTIC

THEN score 2 points each for all words of four letters or more found among the letters.  
Try to score at least 50 points.

**GREEN STUFF!** Evaluate a tossed green salad of five Lincolns, ten Hamiltons, five Jacksons, four Grants and eight Franklins. Total value?

Answers On Page 34

*Merry Christmas*  
**With These Savings!**

**FOODLAND** Supermarkets  
 Home-Owned, Home-Operated

**FOODLAND** plus  
 Marketplace

**Open Til 6PM Christmas Eve  
 CLOSED CHRISTMAS DAY**



**Cook's Hickory Smoked SHANK PORTION HAM** **99¢** Lb.



**Pride Of The Farm Self-Basting YOUNG TURKEY BREAST** **\$148** Lb.



**Large Michigan Red Delicious APPLES** **\$4.99** 8 Lbs.



**USDA Select Star Ranch Angus BONELESS SIRLOIN TIP ROAST** **\$2.98** Lb.



**USDA Select Star Ranch Angus BONELESS RIB EYE STEAK** **\$8.98** Lb.

**RIB EYE ROAST \$7.99** Lb.



**Large California NAVEL ORANGES** **\$5.99** 8 Lbs.



**Kraft Velveeta CHEESE All Varieties 2 Lbs.** **\$5.99**



**Rotel DICED TOMATOES All Varieties 10 Oz. Can** **5/\$5**



**Colorado Russet POTATOES** **\$2.69** 8 Lbs.



**Bush's BLACKEYE PEAS All Varieties 15 Oz. Can** **2/\$1**



**Mountain Dew, Sierra Mist PEPSI 6 Pk. .5 Ltr. Btls.** **5/\$10**



**Medium Yellow ONIONS** **2/\$3** 3 Lb. Bag



**Maxwell House COFFEE All Varieties Except Decaf** **\$6.98** 28-30 Oz.



**Coffee-Mate COFFEE CREAMER** **\$4.98** 35 Oz.



**Farm Rich FROZEN SNACKS Assorted Variety** **\$3.99** 16-24 Oz.



**General Mills CHEX MIX OR BUGLES Select Variety** **4/\$5** 6-8.75 Oz.



**Frito-Lay TOSTITOS** **2/\$5** 11 Oz. Bags



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**AD GOOD DEC. 23-29, 2015**

# MEAT



**Sugar Tree SPIRAL SLICED HALF HAM**

**\$179** Lb.



**Field Kentucky Legend Whole Or Half BONELESS HAM**

**\$339** Lb.



**Bob Evans SIDE DISHES**

**All Varieties 20/22/24 Oz.**

**\$279**



**USDA Inspected Fresh BONELESS SKINLESS CHICKEN BREAST**

**\$239** Lb.



**Cook's Hickory Smoked WHOLE HAM**

**\$149** Lb.



**Tennessee Pride COUNTRY SAUSAGE**

**All Varieties 1 Lb.**

**\$249**

**Bar-S Reg. Or Thick SLICED BOLOGNA \$129 1 Lb.**



**Excel Tender Choice BONELESS PORK CHOPS**

**Boneless PORK LOIN ROAST \$239 1 Lb.**

**\$259** Lb.



**Clifty Farm WHOLE COUNTRY HAM**

**\$199** Lb.



**Royal Hickory Smoked SLICED BACON**

**12 Oz.**

**\$279**

**Bar-S Cooked Or Honey SLICED HAM \$199 1 Lb.**

**Bar-S JUMBO FRANKS**

Regular, Bun Length Or Turkey



**89¢**

1 Lb.

**Bar-S Reg. Or Polish SMOKED SAUSAGE**



**\$299**

2.5 Lbs.

**Bryan COCKTAIL SMOKIES**

Reg., Beef Or Cheese



**\$229**

12/13/14 Oz.

**Smoked PORK JOWL**



**\$119**

Lb.

**Fresh PORK JOWL**



**79¢**

Lb.

# PRODUCE



**Cut & Clean KALE OR COLLARD GREENS**

**\$199**

1 Lb.

**Large ROMA TOMATOES**

Lb.



**99¢**

**Dole GREENER SELECTION, CLASSIC ROMAINE, JUST LETTUCE OR COLE SLAW** Bag



**2/\$3**



**Haas AVOCADOS**

Each

**99¢**

**California BROCCOLI CROWNS**

Lb.



**\$199**

**Baby Cut CARROTS**

1 Lb.



**99¢**

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12 Pk. 12 Oz. Cans

**3/\$12**

**Keebler GRAHAM PIE CRUST**  
4-6 Oz.

**2/\$3**

**Allens Italian Cut GREEN BEANS OR VEG-ALL**  
28/29 Oz.

**2/\$3**

**French's FRENCH FRIED ONIONS**  
6 Oz.

**\$2.98**

**Golden Flake All Varieties POTATO CHIPS**  
5 Oz.

**3/\$5**

**Eagle Brand SWEETENED CONDENSED MILK**  
14 Oz.

**2/\$4**

**Lipton TEA**  
Green, Diet Green, Peach Or Diet Peach  
12 Pk. .5 Ltrs.

**\$4.99**

**Domino POWDERED SUGAR 4X, 10X, Light Or Dark Brown**  
1 lb.

**98¢**

**All Varieties Dole PINEAPPLE**  
20 Oz.

**2/\$3**

**Regular Or Reduced Fat BISQUICK**  
40 Oz.

**\$2.98**

**All Varieties Nestlé MORSELS**  
10-12 Oz.

**2/\$5**

**Food Club Apple Or Cherry PIE FILLING**  
21 Oz.

**\$1.78**

**Sunbeam Old Fashion BREAD**  
20 Oz. Loaf

**2/\$4**

**Kraft All Varieties MAYONNAISE OR MIRACLE WHIP**  
30 oz.

**\$2.99**

**Kraft Deluxe Or Velveeta Shells & Cheese DINNERS**  
12-14 Oz.

**2/\$5**

**Vlasic PICKLES**  
Select Variety  
16-24 Oz.

**2/\$4**

**Kraft All Varieties SALAD DRESSING**  
16 Oz.

**2/\$4**

**Sara Lee DINNER ROLLS**  
12 Ct. Pkg.

**2/\$4**

**FROZEN**

**Totino's PIZZA ROLLS**  
All Varieties  
40 Ct.

**2/\$6**

**Regular Or Deep Dish Pet-Ritz PIE SHELLS**  
2 Ct. ....

**2/\$4**

**All Varieties Cool-Whip WHIPPED TOPPING**  
8 Oz. ....

**98¢**

**Food Club ICE CREAM PAILS**  
Gallon .....

**\$4.98**

**DAIRY**

**Dean's DIP**  
All Varieties  
12-16 Oz.

**\$1.38**

**All Varieties Food Club Shredded Or Chunk CHEESE**  
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**Daisy Reg. Or Light SOUR CREAM**  
16 Oz. ....

**\$1.98**

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**2/\$3**

**Golden Flake VARIETY PACKS**  
20-22 Ct.

**\$6.99**



**All Varieties KARO SYRUP**  
16 Oz.

**2/\$4**



**All Varieties Ocean Spray CRAN COCKTAIL JUICE**  
64 Oz.

**2/\$4**



**Nabisco RITZ CRACKERS**  
11-13 Oz.

**2/\$5**



**Planters PECAN HALVES OR PIECES** 5 oz.

**\$4.99**



**Food Club PARTY CUPS**  
18 Oz. 20 Ct.

**2/\$3**



**Angel Flake COCONUT**  
14 Oz. Bag

**2/\$4**



**Bruce's Or Sugary Sam CUT YAMS**  
29 Oz.

**2/\$3**



**Vlasic Dill Or Sweet RELISH**  
10 Oz.

**88¢**



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**Asst. Variety Hefty FOAM PLATES**  
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12 Pk. Cans Or Bottles

**\$9.99**



**Coors Light Or Miller Lite BEER**

24 Pk. 12 Oz. Cans

**\$17.99**



**Cavit WINE**

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**\$10.99**



**Keystone Light Or Ice BEER**

30 Pk. 12 Oz. Cans

**\$17.49**



**Cook's CHAMPAGNE**

Bottle

**\$5.99**



Not Available At All Locations!



**Father's Table VARIETY CHEESECAKE**

**\$8.98**  
32 Oz.



**Fresh Bakery FUDGE**

**\$4.99**  
Lb.

# DELI & BAKERY

Not Available At All Locations!



**Charter Reserve All Varieties TURKEYS**

**\$5.99**  
Lb.



**Charter Reserve Mild Cheddar Or Aged Provolone CHEESE**

**\$5.99**  
Lb.

**AD GOOD DEC. 23-29, 2015**



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**FLORENCE** 1708 Darby Dr. • 7am-10pm • 256-767-2227  
990 Cox Creek Pkwy. • 7am-10pm • 256-765-1400

**MUSCLE SHOALS** 3001 Woodward. • 7am-11pm • 256-381-7277  
3413 Woodward Ave. • 7am-11pm • 256-978-6093

**SHEFFIELD** Foodland Plus • 106 Towne Plaza • 7am-10pm • 256-381-6552

**TUSCUMBIA** 103 West 1st Street • 7am-11pm • 256-383-9425

**FORD CITY FOODLAND** River Road • 7am-10pm • 256-446-5842

**ELGIN CROSSROADS** ELGIN Forest Plaza • 7am-11pm • 256-247-1958

**ROGERSVILLE** Rogersville Shopping Ctr. • 7am-11pm • 256-247-1805

**RUSSELLVILLE** 14001 Hwy. 43 • 7am-9pm • 256-332-2535

# Parade...

Continued from Page 14

Christmas than seeing all the cute kids and great costumes, hearing the wonderful bands from our community play holiday music and watching the floats go by."

"Thanks to everyone who participated in the 2015 Christmas parade. This parade garners such great interest and support from the community, and this year's bands, floats and dancers were fantastic" said Shields.

The parade couldn't happen without the fantastic support of First Southern Bank, the University of North Alabama ROTC that handles parade night logistics along with the UNA University Police, and the Florence Police Department providing assistance and coordinating a safe and secure environment for the parade.

For more information about us or any of these efforts, please contact Florence Main Street at 256-760-9648 or info@florencemainstreet.org.



**Forest Hills 4th Grade Show Choir**  
photos courtesy Florence Main Street

### Winners of the Florence Christmas Parade Prizes Were

- Best Band –**  
 1.) Rogers High School  
 2.) Brooks High School
- Best Performance Group –**  
 1.) Forest Hills 4th Grade Show Choir  
 2.) Santa's Elves/CHHS Winter Guard
- Best Business Float –**  
 1.) Express Oil Change  
 2.) Singin' River Brewing Company – tie
- Best Non-Profit/Community Organization**  
 1.) Faith Church  
 2.) Alabama Our Little Miss

**2002 CHEVY CAVALIER, 150K** miles, 2 door, coupe, \$2,000 OBO. Call or Text 256-349-4465 12-30

**2014 FORD EXPLORER XLT**, captain's chairs, 22K 27,988. Financing available, call JD 256-577-1056, 256-764-3351 12-30

**DRIVEWAY ROCKS AND GRAVEL** dump truck loads delivered and spread. 256-740-7406. www.ShoalsDirt.com 01-13

**2014 FORD FUSION SE, LEATHER**, heated seats, 32K, \$15,752. Financing, Tony 931-213-1386 or 256-764-3351 12-30

**2011 TOYOTA AVALON LIMITED**, Fully Loaded, Clear title, 57k mi, Automatic, Zephyr Blue Metallic. \$8,200. Reach me at peterkanz211@gmail.com. 12-23

**2014 CHRYSLER 200 LX, CLOTH**, 51k, \$11,597. Financing avail. Call Matt 256-810-0283 or 256-764-3351 12-30

**GOLF CAR 4 PASSENGER** gas, 2015 new/ Silver, \$7,100 + tax, 2 yr. factory warranty, 256-366-8746 01-06

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petconnection

# SANTA PAWS

**GIFTS FOR PETS AND PET LOVERS MAKE HOLIDAYS MERRY**

By Kim Campbell Thornton  
Universal Uclick

Buying a present for your pet this holiday season? Survey says: Yes. According to a recent Nielsen survey, 64 percent of pet owners buy gifts for Buster and Snowball at Christmas and other seasonal celebrations. The favorite presents for pets are toys — to the tune of \$389 million last year — and clothing. If you're starting to make a list and check it twice, we have some suggestions that your cats, dogs and pet-loving friends and family will roll over for.

\* You probably know the adage that a tired dog is a good dog. Keep your pooch pooped with a dog-treat launcher. Load it with small treats (not included) that will travel 10 to 12 feet when you "fire" it, giving him a fun and tasty workout. Works with cats, too. Available at Amazon.com and ContaineStore.com.

\* Dogs love to shake, lick and cuddle with the Duckworth plush squeaky toy. While reviewers give it high marks for durability, it's not for power chewers. Available in large and mini sizes on Amazon.com and other online retailers.

\* Got a catnip junkie? Feed his habit with Yeowww's Pollock Fish Catnip Toy. Stuffed with organically grown catnip and made in the United States, the fish-shaped toy is made for a cat to clutch to his belly and bunnykick. Sold through Amazon.com and other online retailers.

\* Are you getting a new puppy during the holidays? Consider getting him a Snuggle Puppy with a pulsing "heartbeat" and a warming pack to help him relax in his new home. There's a Snuggle Kittie for kittens, too.

As a lifelong reader and a writer by profession, my favorite gifts when buying for people are, not surprisingly, books. They are available on every topic of interest to pet lovers, and if they don't like to read (inconceivable!), well, that's why they publish photography books. My favorites this year:

\* Pete Thorne's photographs and stories of 75 senior dogs capture the life, joy and special beauty of a graying muzzle in "Old Faithful: Dogs of a Certain Age."

\* Mystery fans will cozy up to Laurien Berenson's latest, "The Bark Before Christmas," featuring amateur sleuth Melanie Travis dogging the footsteps of a pup-napping Santa slayer.

\* You throw away 15 (or more) catnip toys until you find the one your cat likes best and set aside a credit card specifically for your cat's use (no limit, natch!); and when your cat brings you a dead mouse in the middle of the night, you say "Good kitty" and take a photo of her trophy for her Facebook page. If you answer yes to these statements, you can reinforce your fancy for felines — and find new ways to spoil your cat — in Allia Zobel Nolan's comical



Think smart and fun when buying presents for pets and people.

(and possibly true-to-life) "Women Who Still Love Cats Too Much," illustrated by Nicole Hollander. The pair will make you giggle and, maybe, squirm a bit when you recognize yourself in the book's pages.

It's the season of giving, but gifts don't have to be material. Show your love for animals with a donation of goods or money to your local shelter, a favorite rescue group or other pet welfare organization. Among the ones we like are World Vets, Winn Feline Foundation, The Grey Muzzle Organization and Alley Cat Allies.

Before you order anything online, for pets or people, see if the merchant sells through adoptshelter.com. Every purchase you make through the portal earns a donation for the shelter of your choice, and there's no need to register, log in or remember a password.

Have a pawsome holiday season!

petbuzz

Teach old dogs new tricks

• Most companies offer employees compassionate leave for the death of a family member, but only a rare few extend the benefit

to bereaved pet owners. The Wall Street Journal's Sue Shellenbarger reports that one is San Francisco-based Kimpton Hotels & Restaurants, which not only welcomes pets at its hotels, but also provides employees with pet health insurance and bereavement leave. Other companies with compassionate pet policies include Mars Inc., which offers one or more days off, flexible hours or the ability to work at home immediately after a pet's death; Maxwell Health and Replacements Ltd., which gives employees time off to take pets for medical treatment; and VMware, a software company with a dog-friendly campus.

• The sloughi, a medium-size sighthound from North Africa, resembles the saluki, but the two are distinct breeds with different characteristics. The sloughi has impressive running skills, seemingly floating like a feather as he moves. His natural prey are jackals, gazelles and desert hares, but he also chases cats, jackrabbits and coyotes if given half a chance. The proud, independent dogs are intelligent and sensitive, bonding strongly with their people, and find it difficult to adjust to new homes if given up for adoption.

— Dr. Marty Becker, Kim Campbell Thornton and Mikkel Becker

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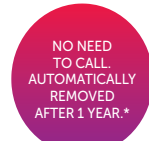
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cart! Paper, cardboard, metal cans,  
plastic bottles, & tubs. Thank You!  
FlorenceRecycles.org. 256-760-6495

## Commentary...

### Helping...

Continued from Page 14

educational maladies can manifest from a lack of nutrition. Diets based on poorer quality and processed foods often lead to excess weight, anxiety, hypertension, diabetes, and cognitive impairment.

One of the best options to reflect the spirit of Christmas is to give the gift of food. A bag of groceries is nice, especially for a Christmas meal, but that is not the whole solution. Food pantries are an excellent way of keeping track of and feeding the vulnerable. Local pantry connections to the Food Bank of North Alabama, America's Second Harvest, and the local Loaves & Fishes Ministry stretch a food dollar into almost five meals. That is an amazing figure that we can't achieve as individuals.

If you are looking for a place to donate a few dollars this year, consider feeding the hungry. Take a bold step by continuing that process monthly throughout the year. A little each month goes a long way with the buying power these groups have in securing surplus food. A phone call to 256-760-9759 can get you started.

A friend recently shared with me Ronald and Nancy Reagan's 1981 Christmas message to the nation.

It closed with, "Nancy and I ask that you join us in a prayer that prudence, wisdom, and understanding might descend on the people of all nations so that during the year ahead we may realize an ancient and wondrous dream: 'Peace on earth, goodwill toward men.'"

## Artistic...

Continued from Page 14

The exhibit and competition is coordinated by area art teachers. Schools may participate or students can enter on their own. Each student can enter up to three works. Entries are juried and if accepted, are eligible for ribbons awarded in different grade level groupings. Works must be original and can be in any medium. All 2-dimensional entries must be matted or framed.

For more details on entry rules call Kennedy-Douglass Center for the Arts 256-760-6379.

## Memories

Continued from Page 14

The hard back book has 110 pages of memories, \$45. If you can't get to Florence, mail a check payable to Rose Sullivan, 313 Government Blvd., Muscle Shoals, AL 35661. She will get one in the mail immediately.



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**Cathy Turner** Cat & Kids  
**Dave Ramsey** Dave Says



# Cat & Kids

by Cathy Turner

## What has He done for me?

Instead of asking, "What Would Jesus Do?", during this season when the world is thinking of Him, I would like to explore the question, "What has Jesus done?" - for me personally. And the associated question is, "Have we (that would be my husband and I) taught our children about it?"

What has He done for me?  
1) He brought me out of darkness. When I was eleven on a night when a knife was involved I started to truly depend on something higher than myself. You see, when you realize that your parents have problems, your belief in good has to come from somewhere else. I prayed to be lead to a better life. When my dad learned to depend on something higher than himself, alcohol left our house. My prayer was answered, and we left darkness behind us.

2) He freed me - from having to define myself in all the ways this world tries to define itself - all those labels - pretty, rich, black, bright, better... I don't have to compare, I simply have to prepare.

3) He gave me peace. In freedom comes peace and security. Trying to do right is so much easier than trying to measure up to what everyone else decides. Now that's freedom. His words never come back void. Security. It is well. Peace.

4) He gave me purpose. I was created to procreate. What an honor and blessing that has been. Spending this day with these, our children, and our grandchild is my song. There is no stronger part of me. There is nothing better on this earth than the countenance of family. He gave them to me and in return, I gave them back to Him for safe keeping. This is my purpose - for us to walk with Him.

5) He has taught me to love. He brought me out of trouble. He focused on me and mine and on you and yours. There was nothing in it for Him. Now that's love. I just want to do that for everybody. I fail at it, because there are so many people. But what I know is that love has its head up and it looks outward. That's what He did.

I hope this is what our children have learned and felt. It is all that I have tried to do - to have my head up, to pay attention, to meet their needs, to help them know their value, to keep them from trouble, to love them, to hug their souls and let them know who they came from and who holds them together. I pray that they feel complete in themselves and that they can stand when they are oppressed or forsaken or mistakened. I hope that they will do what Jesus does by loving the people around them and exemplifying good. I hope that because of Christ they have peace and freedom in being themselves and God's.

That slogan, "What Would Jesus Do", usually pertains to something hard. But a life lived for Him does not focus on hard or hate or dread or death, but on joy and life and others. We never taught our children to celebrate the birth of Christ, because we hope the celebration of His life, death and resurrection is in every decision they make, in every thought that they have and in every breath they take and that it comes out as their joy. Now that's glory. And that is what we should do for Him.

Happy New Year!

Email comments or suggestions to [CatnKids1@gmail.com](mailto:CatnKids1@gmail.com)

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**HOME & Garden IMPROVEMENT**

**Courier Journal**

**MAKE THE MOST OF SMALL LIVING SPACES**

**T**iny houses are a recent phenomenon and have spurred many businesses — from builders to decorating experts — looking to connect with consumers who want to go small. The small house movement advocates for living simply in small homes, some of which can be as small as 100 square feet or less.



Although living in a tiny house is not for everyone, many people prefer small-space living to living in larger, more spacious homes and apartments. For those looking to make the most of their small living spaces, there are ways to make such living arrangements feel larger.

- **Light is your friend.** Establish adequate lighting in a room that includes at least three working lights. Varied light sources from different angles will eliminate dark corners and shadows that can make a space feel smaller. Lighting also can draw the eye where you want it and distract attention from the room's flaws.

- **Make use of vertical space.** Homes where space is at a premium may have limited storage areas. An often-overlooked storage option is vertical space. Space above doors, shelving, and areas above cabinetry are ideal places to store items. Use hooks on walls to keep belongings off the floor.

- **Choose light-colored paint.** Choose lighter hues for your home furnishings

and wall colors. You do not have to limit this to white (unless landlords require white walls). Pale colors will help reflect light and can make the room seem larger than it really is. Using a dark color on the flooring can make other lighter shades really pop in contrast.

- **Conceal the clutter.** If you cannot keep personal belongings to the utmost minimum in a home, experiment with clever ways to keep items out of sight. Furniture that serves dual purposes can help with this task. Storage ottomans will conceal small toys or linens and also provide seating options in a room when guests come over. A dresser can be used as a dining room buffet piece, and the numerous drawers can hold knickknacks or silverware. Furniture with built-in, hidden storage is well worth the investment when living spaces are limited.

- **Create dual-purpose rooms.** Lack of space means getting creative with the space you do have. A nook in your bedroom can be devoted to a miniature home office. Perhaps you can establish a crafting center in a portion of your laundry room. Garages have long served as catch-all spaces in homes. Apart from storage, they can be subdivided for home gyms or even a place to gather and watch a ballgame.

- **Hang mirrors to "expand" rooms.** Mirrors can trick the eye into believing there is more space in a room. Mirrors melt away room borders and can accelerate the flow of light. Hanging them throughout your home can make spaces

seem larger.

- **Think about built-in furniture.** Traditional furniture may not be practical for small spaces and can waste a lot of room. Custom-built furniture is often the way to go to maximize the area you do have. Employ a little do-it-

yourself initiative as well, customizing items for the perfect fit.

- **Work with a designer.** If you're having difficulty making a small space work for you, consult with an interior designer or a contractor for some ideas.



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# Courier Journal CHRISTMAS Coloring Contest 2015 WINNERS

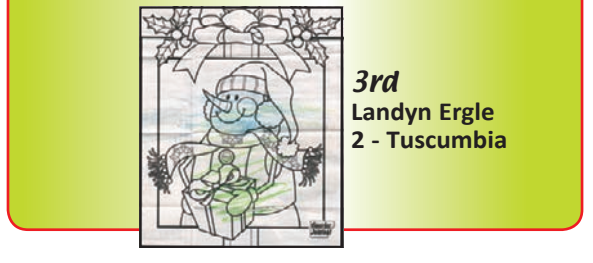
A Special Thanks To Everyone for taking part in our 2015 Christmas Coloring Contest! We had hundreds of entries!



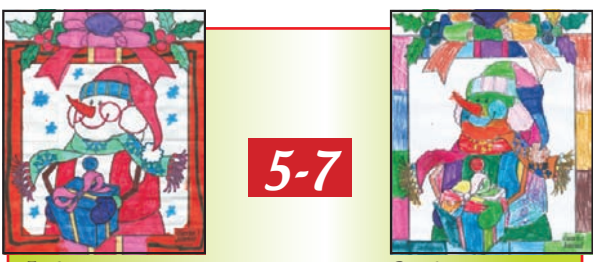
2-4

1st Dominic Barnett  
4 - Florence

2nd Landon Fields  
4 - Florence



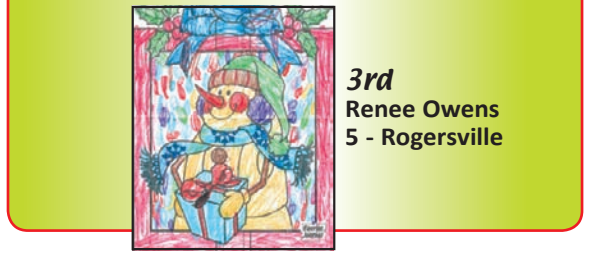
3rd Landyn Ergle  
2 - Tusculmbia



5-7

1st Willa Kate Moore  
7 - Killen

2nd Levi Silvers  
6 - Florence



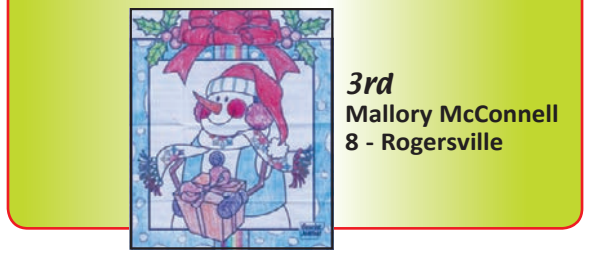
3rd Renee Owens  
5 - Rogersville



8-10

1st Kaelen Gabriel  
9 - Florence

2nd Laylah Jackson  
10 - Florence



3rd Mallory McConnell  
8 - Rogersville

**HONORABLE MENTIONS:**

**2-4 Age Group:** Isaac Grisham, Madison Rikard, Sophie Hester, Callie James. **5-7 Age Group:** Zyaria Simmons, Gabe Teran, Kaitlyn Pesto, Nathan Hovater, Landon McGee. **8-10 Age Group:** Hope Malone, Faith, Malone, Jordan Hawkins, Ronisha Pearson, Ashlyn Barrett, Reshone Evans, Addison Minor, Tayla Watkins. **10 & Up:** Mykiah Bunea & Rachael Griffin

**Top 3 Winners In Each Age Group Pictured Above Receive:**



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## Letters...

Continued from Page 15

### His Gleeeful Usurp of Power

Editor:  
Barak Hussein Obama is again planning to unlawfully usurp the power of Congress by using executive orders to require universal background checks for gun purchases. He will not be stopped from doing exactly what he wants.

Most people won't even be able to understand why he should be stopped because of their ignorance of the Constitution.

White House spokesman, Josh Earnest, gleefully reported that he didn't know exactly when the White House staff would be done scrubbing the rules so that Obama could sign the orders.

The powers of each branch of our government are supposed to serve as checks and balances on the powers of the other two in order to keep any one branch from amassing too much authority. Aided by the judicial branch, both the legislative and executive branches through the years have granted themselves powers they were never meant to have.

According to the Constitution, congress is authorized to make laws while the executive branch is authorized to execute those laws. Obama isn't the first to abuse executive orders, but he has perfected it. By claiming he is simply ordering the heads of various agencies to make rules changes to their own departments, Obama is able to actually create and enact any law he pleases.

Liberals in both parties are fine with this. They aren't aware of what's in the Constitution and they have accepted the lie that the Constitution is a living document. They have also accepted the other great lie of Liberalism, that rights come from government.

Obama's new executive order will no doubt exceed the authority of the office of the president and usurp the authority of the Congress. It will certainly violate the Second Amendment right to keep and bear arms and the Fourth Amendment protection against unreasonable search and seizure.

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I hope to see him soon. I miss him everyday. He has a microchip.

I can be reached at **256-627-1051 or 256-248-4315**

Thanks for your help, Andy

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### GAMES FOR WEEK #17

WEEK OF DEC. 26, 2015  
DEADLINE IF BOTH CARDS SUBMITTED TOGETHER, 6:00 PM, THURSDAY, DEC. 24.

SUN BOWL - DEC. 26

- MIAMI vs\*
- WASHINGTON ST.

HEART OF DALLAS BOWL - DEC. 26

- WASHINGTON vs\*
- SOUTHERN MISS

PINSTRIP BOWL - DEC. 26

- DUKE vs\*
- INDIANA

INDEPENDENCE BOWL - DEC. 26

- VIRGINIA TECH vs\*
- TULSA

FOSTER FARMS BOWL - DEC. 26

- NEBRASKA vs\*
- UCLA

MILITARY BOWL - DEC. 28

- PITTSBURGH vs\*
- NAVY

ARMED FORCES BOWL - DEC. 29

- AIR FORCE vs\*
- CALIFORNIA

TEXAS BOWL - DEC. 29

- TEXAS TECH vs\*
- LSU

BIRMINGHAM BOWL - DEC. 30

- MEMPHIS vs\*
- AUBURN

BELK BOWL - DEC. 30

- N. CAROLINA ST. vs\*
- MISSISSIPPI ST.

MUSIC CITY BOWL - DEC. 30

- LOUISVILLE vs\*
- TEXAS A&M

RUSSELL ATHLETIC BOWL - DEC. 29

**TIE BREAKER GAME** Write Score HERE  
N. CAROLINA vs\*   
BAYLOR

\* - game played at a neutral location

### GAMES FOR WEEK #18

WEEK OF JAN. 2, 2016  
DEADLINE IF SUBMITTED SEPARATELY FROM WEEK #17: 6:00 PM, WED., DEC. 30

PEACH BOWL - DEC. 31

- HOUSTON vs\*
- FLORIDA ST.

ORANGE BOWL - DEC. 31

- CLEMSON vs\*
- OKLAHOMA

COTTON BOWL - DEC. 31

- ALABAMA vs\*
- MICHIGAN ST.

OUTBACK BOWL - JAN. 1

- NORTHWESTERN vs\*
- TENNESSEE

CITRUS BOWL - JAN. 1

- MICHIGAN vs\*
- FLORIDA

FIESTA BOWL - JAN. 1

- NOTRE DAME vs\*
- OHIO ST.

ROSE BOWL - JAN. 1

- IOWA vs\*
- STANFORD

SUGAR BOWL - JAN. 1

- OKLAHOMA ST. vs\*
- OLE MISS

TAXSLAYER BOWL - JAN. 2

- GEORGIA vs\*
- PENN STATE

LIBERTY BOWL - JAN. 2

- KANSAS ST. vs\*
- ARKANSAS

CACTUS BOWL - JAN. 2

- WEST VIRGINIA vs\*
- ARIZONA ST.

ALAMO BOWL - JAN. 2

**TIE BREAKER GAME** Write Score HERE  
TCU at OREGON

\* - game played at a neutral location



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**RULES:** Only one entry per person per week. Only one winner per week. Check the box beside the appropriate picks for the first 11 games, then write in the exact score of the tie-breaker game. Person with the most correct picks receives a Gift Certificate for 2 entrees, 2 desserts, and 2 beverages from Legend's Steakhouse in Florence, tax and gratuity not included. In event of a tie, tie-breaker score will be used. Closest score wins. Total points will be next tie-breaking procedure and a random drawing of finalists will be used to determine the winner if they are exactly tied. Person with the winning card for the week, who also picks every game correctly including tie-breaker, will also win \$50 cash. Judges decision is final. Mailed entries must be post-marked by deadline day. Hand-delivered, faxed or on-line entries must be submitted by exact time of deadline stated above. **NO EXCEPTIONS.** Winner is posted on web site each Tuesday and in the paper delayed by one week. Employees and family of Courier Journal and sponsors are ineligible to win.

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## READY TO ENTERTAIN

I clean houses for a living. One thing I've noticed is that people tend to believe a house is clean if it smells clean. Therefore, when I'm cleaning a house, I make sure it smells clean. I choose an essential oil that the client likes. I place a few drops in the kitchen and bathroom drains. Then I put a little on paper towels and place them in the waste baskets. When I'm entertaining at home, I do the same thing before guests arrive. They always think I've cleaned the house just for them!

Alexandra

## ELIMINATING STUFF!

It's been an on-going project, but my wife and I have digitized all of our financial records, music, and books. We used a scanning service for the books. We had hundreds of books, thousands of CDs, and four file cabinets filled with paper. It all now fits easily on a thumb drive. Since all of our family pictures, documents, and history are scanned, I can easily provide copies of everything to anyone in the family who wants them. And, it doesn't take up any space in their house. My father moved from a 3,000 sq. ft. house to a 600 sq. ft. retirement apartment, and it was an inspiration watching him do that.

Rick

## EASY, INEXPENSIVE BED WARMER

Each winter I take a flat piece of fleece and place it under the bottom sheet on my bed. You'd be surprised how much warmer it is. It's cheap and doesn't require any sewing. Too easy!

Seleena

## CUSTOM GIFT TAGS

All year long, I've taken pictures of my kids. Now it's time to take them off my phone and print them. I will use the prints as gift tags on their Christmas presents! This should make Christmas morning a little more interesting!

Giselle

## MAKING CHRISTMAS GROCERY SHOPPING AFFORDABLE

Our grocery budget is always tight around the holidays, so I take the month of December as an opportunity to use as much as I can from my pantry and freezer. Sometimes that means searching for recipes that use what I have. Not only do I manage to cut my grocery bill down, but I also use a lot of food that would otherwise be forgotten and go to waste.

Sheena

## 'FLY AWAY' HAIR

During the winter, my hair tends to get dry and doesn't hold well. I hate using a lot of hairspray, so I found another way to keep my hair under control. Once a week, I soak my hairbrush in water that's had a few drops of fabric softener added to it. I let it dry without rinsing. It's amazing how something so simple can help control my hair!

Amanda

## I'M A PAID COOK

Some nights I'm not motivated to cook dinner for my family. I found a way to make it easier. If I'm making lasagna, I figure out what we would pay if all four of us went to a restaurant and had it. It would probably be somewhere around \$50! So

I look at it as if I've saved that money for my family. Knowing that I'm putting us closer to paying off our credit cards makes me feel much better!

Melodee

## THINK OUTSIDE THE GIFT BOX

This time of year, a lot of stores offer bonus gift cards when gift cards are bought. We don't have a lot of people that we give gifts to, so normally we wouldn't be buying gift cards. However, when a store or restaurant where we go frequently offers a deal, we buy them for ourselves. For instance, last Christmas, one store offered a \$25 card if we bought one for \$100. We used it when we needed a new microwave oven. They had a model we liked on sale. Besides the sale price, we got an additional 25% off because of the gift card bonus. One other benefit is that it's a little like having a small savings account. We set aside the money now, so it'll be a little easier on the wallet in the future.

Alissa

## REALLY CHEAP WRAPPING PAPER

If you want to find wrapping paper really cheap, visit any department store or shop that wraps gifts right after Christmas. They buy paper in large rolls and many are glad to get rid of it at almost any price. Besides not wanting to store it all summer, they also like to have different paper each year. So now's the time to ask what they do with unused paper.

Chantel

## FABULOUS FRENCH TOAST

I don't make French toast often, but when I do, there's a twist that I think makes it better than most. I use a flavored liquid coffee creamer instead of milk. Just that little bit of flavor makes all the difference. I still add a bit of cinnamon and dip it into an egg bath like most people.

Julianne

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## How to Leave it When You Go

One thing about selling a home that most people don't think about is how to leave it for the buyer. I'm talking about at possession, after closing. The buyers open the door to their new home and what do they see? I can tell you right now, it runs the gamut.

On one end of the spectrum, there are sellers who remove every last bit of trash or miscellany. Those people then clean the house as if they themselves were about to move right back into it. Besides being the right thing to do, this indicates that they take pride in themselves and their surroundings. Into the middle fall those who leave it "broom swept" and relatively clean. Then there are many who seem not to consider their buyer at all. Some appear to have gathered up as much as possible and made a dash for it, leaving dust bunnies the size of Chewbacca and all sorts of miscellaneous things that the buyer has to remove before moving in. I've seen it all, and some of it you would not believe. Old mail, (seemingly) important documents, broken toys, junk in drawers and cabinets, food, personal items (yes, quite personal). Sometimes people leave perfectly nice things. The problem with that is, it's impossible to tell if the buyer actually wants those things.

Sometimes, especially in an estate situation, a house is left empty of people but full of useful things. In those situations, the sellers have several options. They can do the work themselves, holding an estate sale or donating the contents to charity. Several charities will bring a truck and pick up the items, all you have to do is call and schedule it. There is also the option of hiring a company or individual to conduct the estate sale. Either way, whatever is not sold or donated must be disposed of in some way by the seller. It is never the buyer's responsibility, and I have seen buyers postpone closing until a property is emptied.

This is one of many situations in life that fall back on the Golden Rule. Do unto others as you would have them do unto you. Would you rather open the door into a clean, empty space, fresh-smelling and ready for your possessions to make it a home, or a dirty space filled with junk that you have to clean and empty before you can even move in? - mr

Please feel free to send your questions.

Rest assured I will only use your first name when I answer your questions. Email to: questions@mikerandallhomes.com or mail to:

Questions for Mike Randall  
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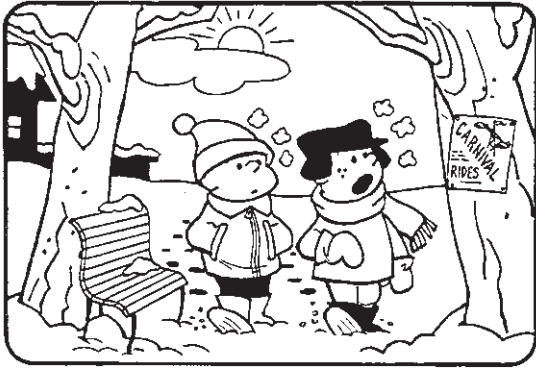
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# Notes...

Continued from page 4

**The Kennedy Douglass Brown Bag Lunch Meeting** will be at 11:30am-1pm on Friday, January 8 at The Kennedy Douglass Center for the Arts, 217 East Tuscaloosa Street, Florence. Beverages and desserts will be furnished. At 12pm, our speaker will be Billy Warren, who will speak on Historic Florence. For questions, please call 256-760-6379.

**The Special Education Advisory Panel (SEAP) and the Alabama State Department of Education (ALSDE) will host a Public Meeting** from 9:30am-3pm on January 20 to obtain input regarding special education services. Participation by concerned citizens at this meeting provides an opportunity to identify issues and unmet needs relative to educational services for children with disabilities throughout the state. Comments from the public will be received from 1-2pm. Alabama Industrial Development Training Center (AIDT), 15 Technology Court, Montgomery, AL

Alternative participation will be available through WebEx. A request for access information in order to listen to the proceedings via computer, and if desired, to offer any comments during the scheduled public comment time period of 1-2pm should be made by e-mail to Ms. Susan Goldthwaite (sgoldthwaite@alsde.edu). Interpreter services for the hearing impaired will be available at this meeting.

Written comments may be sent to Ms. Goldthwaite either by mail at ALSDE, Special Education Services Section, Post Office Box 302101, Montgomery, Alabama 36130-2101, or by e-mail at sgoldthwaite@alsde.edu.

For directions to the AIDT conference room, please contact Mr. Ray Glasscock by calling 334-242-8114, or by e-mail at rayg@alsde.edu.

**January is the time of year that we begin to consider ways to live better,** and women of all ages have perhaps more priorities to balance than ever before. Celeste Coffman, an Associate Licensed Counselor under supervision of Alicia Kelly, LPC-S, will host "Organization & Productivity for Women" on Saturday, January 23 at Mosaic: A Wellness Place, 1801 N. Wood Avenue in Florence at 1:30pm and advance tickets are required. Ticket cost is \$50. Women who attend will spend time reflecting on their goals and achievements from 2015 while making plans for an even better 2016. Coffman will provide guidance in setting priorities and managing goals, as well as multitudes of tips for organizing meals, children's schedules, work and more. Interested parties may read more about this event at buy tickets at <https://go.gil7wrr>.

**Northwest Alabama Reading Aides** in conjunction with the American Stroke Assoc. and ECM Hospital sponsors a Stroke support Group for stroke survivors and their caregivers on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of every month at noon at the Reading Aides Office, 501 N. Seminary St. Please call Jim at 256-766-5709 for more info.

**Is food a problem for you?** Do you eat when you are not hungry? Do you binge, purge or restrict? Overeaters Anonymous Meeting Thursdays, 6pm, 505 N Seminary St, Florence. Contact person: Bill 256-335-2514. No dues, fees, diets, or weigh-ins.

**Are you interested in fostering an animal?** Fostering gets cats and dogs out of the shelter and clears space for incoming animals. New foster homes are restricted to animals pending transport to a new home or rescue (usually 1-2 weeks), pregnant or nursing animals, and some special needs cases. If you are interested in fostering, please fill out the form at the following web link: <https://secure.mailjo.net/allforms/ul3275823d.php>

**Want a job? Want a better job?** Get your GED! Free GED Prep classes are located near you. The program is open entry with new students starting classes weekly. For more information, call the Northwest-Shoals Community College Adult Education Program at 256-331-5440 or 256-331-5438.

**FIREWOOD FOR SALE - PICK UP** \$20/rick; oak and hickory; thrown on load \$50; stacked on load \$60. 256-483-1832 or 256-366-6186 or 931-332-1210 01-06

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Possible twosomes:  
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3 SAM	8 FLO
4 CAL	9 PAM
5 WES	10 LES

Twelve hundred and twenty-five dollars

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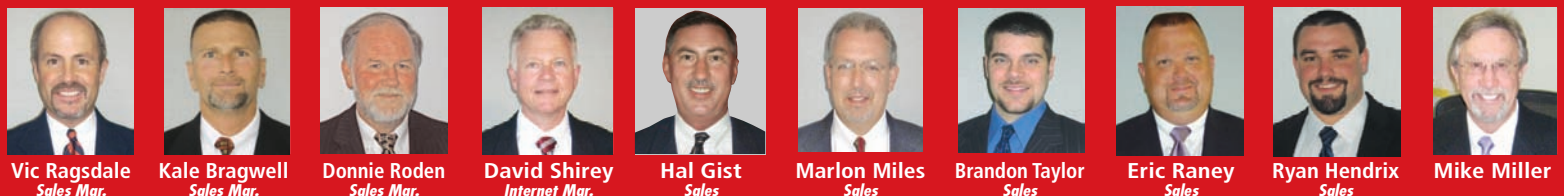
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